

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

To simplify issues, Claim 1 has been amended to delete language which was considered to constitute new matter, although that should not be construed to mean that applicants agree that the language is unsupported by the original specification.

Claim 1 stands rejected over Suzuki et al. However, Suzuki et al. does not disclose a ply comprised of three superimposed layers as recited in claim 1, but rather refers to three crown plies of the tire. Claim 1 recites a crown ply which is used in a crown reinforcement with other crown plies. The claimed multiplayer ply is a prebuilt assembly which will be used in the construction of a tire.

Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to recite a key difference between the presently claimed invention and that of Suzuki et al., namely the nature of the metallic elements of the first and second layers. In the presently claimed invention those elements comprise elastic steel cables (see page 4, lines 2-4 of the present specification). In contrast, Suzuki et al. employs inextensible steel as the reinforcement (see column 2, lines 36-38 of Suzuki et al.), which exhibit markedly different behavior under loads.

For the above reasons, it is submitted that claim 1 distinguishes patentably over Suzuki et al., and allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is respectfully solicited.

The description has been amended at page 5, line 1 to correct an obvious, minor error.

Also, a missing numeral 110 has been inserted on page 6.

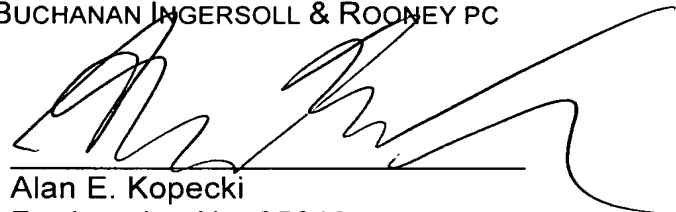
In light of the foregoing amendments and comments, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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